

Merisa K. Bowers

GAHANNA CITY COUNCILWOMAN, AT-LARGE
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To: Residents of Gahanna;
Members of Council;
Mayor Jadwin;
City Attorney Ray Mularski
CC: Director of Parks and Recreation Stephania Bernard-Ferrell;
Director of Public Service & Engineering Grant Crawford;
Chief of Police Jeffrey Spence;
Communications Manager Carrin Wester;
Council Clerk April Beggerow
From: Councilmember Merisa Bowers
Re: **Constituent Update - May Report**
Date: 06/01/2020

General Update:

The Coronavirus Pandemic continues to impact local government, business, education, and virtually every aspect of life. As Gahanna and surrounding municipalities assess financial forecasts while addressing resident needs, major weather events and civic issues create challenges. The community continues to rise to each challenge, setting the bar higher and strengthening our core values.

In mid-May, we launched a community-wide survey asking for constituent feedback on the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic response on their families and organizations. We received 114 responses over an approximate 10 day window.

The inspiration for this came from a constituent pointing out how much she appreciates the frequently used surveys by Gahanna Jefferson schools.

More than 75% of respondents reported that their day to day routines are different from what they were in February 2020.

Approximately 90% of respondents felt they were kept well or very well informed by State-level government and the majority of respondents felt that they were kept well or very well informed by local-level government (City, County, Township, and School District).

Generally, many more respondents felt comfortable engaging in activities outdoors of various types (socializing, recreation, and dining) than indoors, except there is still a lot of concern about attending outdoor events such as festivals, parades, and markets.

Approximately 83% of respondents are willing to wear facial coverings (face masks) indoors this spring, but only half are inclined to wear them outdoors. Just over a quarter of respondents reported a negative impact to their household incomes since March 9, 2020 and 28% reported that a member of their household has lost a job or stream of income since March 9, 2020.

Complete survey responses will be compiled and made available electronically.

We initiated our opt-in constituent contact email communication in April. Interested parties can provide their email addresses here: <https://forms.gle/PMTu8eH5Fy4bN4Si8>

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Constituent Issues/Concerns:

#1 Summary of Issue/Concern:

Neighbors commented regarding potholes on Howland

Action:

Filled out the Report a Pothole Form online and contacted Project Assistant for Streets Department. <https://www.gahanna.gov/report-a-pothole/>

Response:

Immediate response from City staff - potholes were filled within 12 hours of request. Staff further noted that the particular stretch of Howland is slated for resurfacing later this summer.

#2 Summary of Issue/Concern:

Residents concerned about basement flooding in certain neighborhoods after May 18-19 record-level rainfall.

Action:

Contacted City staff, requested information.

Response:

Awaiting May 19, 2020 email from Director Grant Crawford regarding information about city sewer system and response. Directed to view Facebook video.

#3 Summary of Issue/Concern:

Pool Opening

Received various texts, calls, and verbal questions about whether the pools would open this year.

Action:

After May 18, 2020 Finance Committee meeting, asked for issue to be placed on Committee agenda so residents could be aware of discussion.

Response:

City publicly announced decisions regarding pool closure on May 29.

#4 Summary of Issue/Concern:

Various requests about Parks/Playground Reopening

Action:

Directed residents to Mayor.

Response:

Pending.

#5 Summary of Issue/Concern:

Light Sequencing

Received a message from a resident requesting light sequencing on Hamilton Road between Tech Center and Morrison.

Action:

Forwarded request to Director Crawford.

Response:

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Received email from Director Crawford:

The traffic signals referenced by Mr. Kaelin are coordinated with one another from 6:30 am to 10:00 pm. Due to the reduced traffic volumes, they are switched to a “free” operation outside these hours. I will watch these signals over the next couple of days to see if I can find any issues with the system. If the resident could provide any additional information on the time of day, frequency, dates, etc. it would be greatly appreciated. I would be happy to contact the resident to discuss further, or they could contact me on my direct line if that works better.

#6 Summary of Issue/Concern:

Heil Drive storm water

Council received an email from resident concerned with water on Heil Drive.

Action:

Noticed that a reply did not include Director Crawford, so forwarded to him.

Response:

Pending with appropriate city department.

#7 Summary of Issue/Concern:

Constituent requested follow up information to “agricultural legislation” referenced in April 2020 Constituent Report.

Action:

Responded to email clarifying that I had received a question from a neighbor about the basis of existing Gahanna ordinance and that I had begun to explore the issue. Asked resident to share her concerns or thoughts about agricultural legislation.

Response:

N/A

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Merisa K. Bowers

Merisa K. Bowers

Gahanna City Councilmember, At Large

06/01/20

